projects, hospital construction, construction of roads and bridges, improvement and upgradation of transmission grid, rural electrification, education sector, strengthening of Paro airport and construction of High Court building.

There are no restrictions on cultural exchanges or visits of artists between the two countries. A large number of Bhutanese students study in Indian schools and colleges on a private basis, 50 scholarships each are extended to them under the Colombo Plan and Government of India Scholarship Scheme respectively. India also provides experts and specialists to Bhutan in various fields.

**International Reaction on Nuclear Tests**

185. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Which are the countries who have congratulated India on the successful tests of three devices at Pokhran on 11.5.98 and which are the countries who have criticised our country;

(b) What is the plan of Government to surmount the adverse reactions which have come against India; and

(c) what steps will be taken to consolidate India's position in the international community *vis-a-vis* the recent nuclear tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) A number of countries have conveyed a degree of understanding of the rationale behind India's decision to undertake these tests. Some countries have been markedly critical, *inter alia*, USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and, New Zealand. Pakistan's reaction has been strongly critical "condemning" India's decision; Pakistan has sought to generate international propaganda against India on this issue. Many countries have expressed concern about the tests and most have reiterated their commitment to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

(b) and (c) Government have taken all steps necessary to explain the rationale underlying the decision to authorise these tests which were aimed at reassuring the Indian people that Government would attach the highest priority to addressing India's security concerns. Government intends to continue to actively engage various countries, both at the official as well as the non-official level, with the objective of highlighting our unique record of restraint and our seriousness to actively engage in a constructive dialogue towards the objective of global nuclear disarmament. In our interaction with interlocutors in various countries, Government have reaffirmed that we are a responsible member of the international community and that our policies are consistently marked by a high degree of restraint and responsible conduct.

**Number of NRIs from Gujarat settled abroad**

186. SHRI SHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that quite a good number of NRIs from Gujarat are settled abroad;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed their number, country-wise; and

(c) what facilities have been extended by Government to Gujarati NRIs for their participation in investment in India particularly for the industrial development of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to boost investment in India by NRIs including from Gujarati NRIs. Several schemes and incentives are available for investment in the different sectors. NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) predominantly owned by